



## Pend Oreille County

# Board of Commissioners

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May 23, 2017

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor of Washington  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

In 2016, Pend Oreille County was initially selected as the site for a silicon smelting facility which was designated as a Project of Statewide Significance and awarded a \$300,000 Economic Development grant by the state of Washington.

HiTest Sand, Inc. met the threshold for a Project of Statewide Significance in that it will provide a net environmental benefit and will provide significant economic benefit to the local and state economy, providing directly 170 new permanent, full-time jobs and indirectly a potential to create an additional 500 to 700 jobs in our community. Pend Oreille County has one of the highest unemployment rates in Washington State - 9.30% reported in March.

Correspondence from Commerce Director Brian Bonlender concluded that HiTest would further Washington's Clean Technology sector and would deepen the solar manufacturing supply chain. The silicon would be used by in-state solar cell manufacturers to produce products to reduce carbon-based energy consumption. We need environmentally mindful companies in our county and are confident HiTest qualifies.

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians made application recently to the EPA for a Class I Air Quality Redesignation in accordance with the Clean Air Act. As stated by a Tribal Council member at their Public Hearing for Class I Designation, the application was made to prevent the locating of HiTest Sand in Pend Oreille County.

There is no merit in the request for an air quality redesignation. A new classification may discourage companies from bringing their business to Pend Oreille County. We ask that you consider the adverse effects this designation could bring to our county as well as bordering counties.

Sincerely,

PEND OREILLE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Rhonda Cary for Karen Skoog*  
Karen Skoog, Chair *-approved by email*

*Stephen Kiss*  
Stephen Kiss, Vice-Chair

*Mike Manus*  
Mike Manus, Member